

COUNTRY USSR (Chelyabinsk Oblast)

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21 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Magnitogorsk Airfield

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1. An airfield was about 9 km northeast of the Magnitogorsk (53°25'N/59°05'E) railroad station, Chelyabinsk Oblast, just east of the village of Platina. There was a spur track at the field, but no hangars or buildings were seen. Tents were being erected at the field. According to Soviet civilians, the tents were to be temporarily occupied by Soviet Air Force soldiers, who were to be quartered in a former P.W. camp. About two to four biplanes were parked at the field. Only a few flights were made. At a later date of observation, a radio installation was seen being transported to the vicinity of the field. Trellis masts were unloaded from several trucks.
2. In September 1949, about 20 temporary wooden buildings, each about 15 x 50 meters were seen in an area about 1.5 km north of the field and the village of Platina. This was a former P.W. camp. The temporary buildings were occupied by soldiers wearing brown uniforms with pale blue epaulets and air force insignia and their caps. Most of them were officers.
3. The airfield was about 5 km east or southeast of Magnitogorsk, about 300 to 1,000 meters north of Platina. No buildings were seen at the field. About three or four aircraft were parked there.
4. A Soviet engineer said in early November 1949 that the barracks installations in Platina were to be prepared for occupation by an air force unit. It was observed some days later that work had started.
5. Only little flying was seen over Magnitogorsk.

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